



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

20 June 2019, 6:00 PM
City Hall—Hooker Conference Room 245, North Morton Street

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation

2. Introductions

Present: Andrew Guenther, Andrea Webster, Erica Walker, Ryan Clemens, Mike Litwin, Lindsey Hummel, Chris Ericson, Matt Caldie, David Parkhurst, Don Eggert, Kate Corcoran (intern), Linda Thompson (liaison), and Lauren Travis, Assistant Director of Sustainability at the city of Bloomington, representing the Commission of Sustainability.

Absent: None

3. Approval of minutes

Erica motioned to approve with amendments, David seconded. Unanimous voice vote in favor of approving May minutes. Minutes approved.

4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person

None.

5. Presentation: ~~Youth Sustainability Society: "Environmental Change Resolution" letter of support. Jarrett Alexander~~

6. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, ERAC, & MPO

- TC: no commissioners currently attending as liaison. Linda informed EC that TC will be working on removing a large group of invasive Callery Pears in the winter.
- MoCo: no report. EC does not have any commissioners attending MoCo meetings as liaison.
- BCOS: Lauren gave the update. Looking into possibility of green business certifications this summer.
 - o Don will take over attending BCOS meetings as EC liaison in the future.
- ERAC: David sent out ERAC minutes, and commissioners updated themselves on these ERAC minutes prior to tonight's meeting.
- MPO: Ryan: MPO is creating a 2040 transportation plan, which will serve as the comprehensive plan for the MPO, and Ryan is drafting a completely new climate section for the MTP on climate change. The MPO acquires federal funding and distributes it to local public agencies based on prioritization criteria from the complete streets policy

(which is also being updated). Will try and prioritize projects that generate as little CO₂ as possible. Working with INDOT. MPO works across the “metropolitan planning area”, beyond the city of Bloomington limits. Will begin official movements in the fall.

- Chris gave an update on the Friends of Lake Monroe event he attended on 6/15 representing the EC.

7. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups A Cycle

A Cycle

A. ECPC/Plan Commission

- 4th street parking garage: The developers are asking for waivers on non-environmental elements. 550 parking spaces. 10 Electric charging stations, with the whole building being wired, opening the possibility for more electric charging stations to be added in the future. Solar panels, at least 12,000 KW, will be placed where the floor of the seventh floor would be/ as a canopy over the 6th floor. 50 bike racks, 10 in a locker. 25% parking spaces for compact cars. Dedicated carpool parking spot. Designated car-share pickup spot. Will include public art. Will be “architecturally significant” – EC would like more information on how this plan will qualify as “architecturally significant”
 - o Don expressed concern about the parking lot as a seismic hazard, because we are in a moderate seismic zone. What is the lifetime for this garage?
 - o The developers will pursue a silver Parksmart certification for this garage. Given the controversy and pushback this project has faced, Linda would like to see this garage be made gold-certified. Initially, she sees no reason they can’t do it. She would also like to see recycling space and a commitment made to recycling destruction materials. We don’t know if the landscape plan has native plants and it’s not a Parksmart requirement, but we’d like to see native plants used as well. Nothing in the plan yet that addresses water runoff – could this be a use of the subterranean floor? Would like to see a ceiling with a high SRI – this will help the solar panels function better. There is also no place-making – no benches, fountains, or features that make this a nice space to be in. What about hanging plant boxes? Green walls? No innovation, which is a Parksmart point category.
 - o This will go to plan commission in July, but Linda doesn’t know if they have provided enough information to go forward. EC could write a letter or memo to the re-development commission.
- The student housing project replacing motel 6 has been approved and will be going before city council July 21st.



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B. Waste/Hazards
None.

C. Water

- Kate updated the EC on the initiation of an effort to track conditions of approval made by developers that have agreed to construct detention ponds, and to check up on them to see that they were built. Previous EC intern Jess Vogt began tracking all development commitments in 2001 in a large spreadsheet, which previous EC intern Erin Hatch had been updating. These agreements go back to 2001, and have no expiration date, so they are all still enforceable. This will be done in conjunction with Heather Reynolds and Samantha Hamlin from the IU biology department, as they are interested in researching green infrastructure in Bloomington. Heather Reynolds may be able to come present on their research at a future EC meeting.
- Green infrastructure grants have not gone out yet but they are coming up. They will be made public once completed. They are reimbursements, not loans.

~~B. Cycle~~

~~A. Outreach~~

~~B. ECPC/Planning Commission~~

~~C. Biodiversity~~

8. Old business

A. Tree Commission & ECPC delegates

- TC: Meets monthly at 9:30am the Wednesday morning before the monthly EC meeting. Lindsey Hummel will now serve as EC liaison.
- ECPC: Linda will begin sending out a general invite to all commissioners before each meeting. The meeting announcement is regularly posted for the public 48 hours beforehand.

C. New secretary

Lindsey Hummel was unanimously elected to serve as our new secretary.

D. Deforestation at Monroe Lake

EC would still like more information on this development. What was the reason for this deforestation in the first place?

9. New business

A. Next UDO steps

Next UDO goes to plan commission, but we don't know what date that will be.

10. Commissioner announcements

Kate: I brought all of the EC outreach publications we have so that everyone can look at what we've already got. Most of them are in need of updating.

David: 40 years ago, there was a minor earthquake in Bloomington that shook the trees.

Chris: Passed on from Friends of Lake Monroe: FLM will have a fundraiser on June 27th from 5-7pm at Upland. Another potential tabling event for us is Waterfest on Aug 23rd from 5:30-7:30pm at the Banneker Community Center.

Lindsey: Construction of Switchyard Park along the B-line looks really good so far.

Lauren: shared her email, lauren.travis@bloomington.in.gov

Ryan: thanks to Chris for attending the FLM event and to Lindsey for taking up some important roles for the EC.

Andrea: there is a new website that you can find by googling "sustainable development code". The website ranks and organizes different types of sustainable development codes and has information about different codes and how they look in different cities. Being developed by law school at Drake University.

There is also a good website about protecting our waterways from invasive species that has reports/guides for Indiana invasives. Andrea will send these websites around.

11. Adjournment at 7:45pm.

Next EC meeting, 18 July, 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, City Hall